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Legislative fundraising sets record

State legislative candidates and support committees raked in nearly \$4 million in the first half of 2014 and current office holders held an \$8 to \$1 cash advantage over their challengers, a Democracy Campaign review of campaign finance reports showed.

The \$3.98 million raised by legislative candidates and committees was a record for the first six months of a regular election year. Stacked up against comparable six-month periods, the latest fundraising for state Assembly and Senate races was 13% more than the previous record of \$3.52 million raised during the first six months of 2010. It was also 13% higher than the amount raised from the beginning of January through the end of June in 2012 which fell about a hundred dollars short of the 2010 record.

The record fundraising in the first half of 2014 is particularly notable because legislative candidates are competing for contributions with Republican and Democratic candidates for governor who are raising vast sums of money, as well as candidates for four other state constitutional offices and several seats in Congress.



The only time state legislative candidates raised more in the first six months of a year was in 2011, when a record haul of \$6.8 million was spurred by nine Senate recall elections that summer.

Candidates for Assembly and Senate seats in 2014 had a total of \$5.4 million in their campaign accounts at the end of June. Cash balances for 87 incumbents totaled more than \$2.7 million, which was eight times more than the \$355,940 in the campaign accounts of 57 challengers.

“This goes a long way toward explaining why incumbents are so often reelected despite the fact public approval of those currently in office is so low,” WDC director Mike McCabe said. “Incumbents’ huge cash advantage enables them to do most of the campaign advertising around election time. They have no trouble getting their message to the voters, while their challengers have a hard time getting a word in edgewise.”

The top fundraiser among legislative candidates in the first half of 2014 was Republican Howard Marklein, a member of the Assembly who is running to replace retiring Senator Dale Schultz in the 17th Senate district in the southwestern part of the state.

Money keeps rolling in for Walker

Governor Scott Walker raised \$1.1 million in July, bringing his total fundraising haul for the 2014 election to more than \$18.6 million and widening his cash advantage over Democratic nominee Mary Burke, who so far has raised \$5.95 million.

The Democracy Campaign is regularly updating a special Campaign 2014 feature on our website (www.wisdc.org/pro14profiles.php) where you can find lists of the biggest donors to Walker and Burke, comprehensive information about their fundraising, as well as similar information for other candidates for statewide office and those seeking seats in the legislature. WDC also has posted the statements of economic interest filed by all candidates for state office providing a glimpse into the candidates' sources of income, their investments and other financial holdings, and debts.

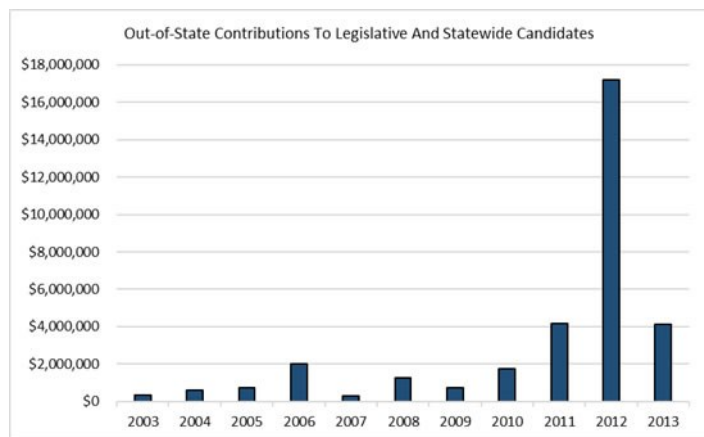
In addition, the Campaign 2014 page on wisdc.org supplies information on campaign activity by special interest groups seeking to influence Wisconsin elections.

Outside money becoming fixture

Out-of-state interests continued flooding Wisconsin with millions of dollars in political donations in 2013, continuing a trend that began in 2011 and 2012 because of unprecedented recall elections.

Contributions from out-of-state donors to legislative and statewide officeholders and candidates in 2013 totaled \$4.11 million, nearly matching the record \$4.16 million set for an odd-numbered year in 2011. In 2012, a record \$17.2 million in out-of-state contributions flowed to state politicians, mostly to influence the recall election for governor.

Before 2011, annual out-of-state fundraising fluctuated, ranging from just over \$300,000 to \$2 million a year between 2003 and 2010.



Overwhelming it ain't

Governor Scott Walker's campaign finance report for the first six months of 2014 showed 56,530 itemized individual contributions totaling \$7.83 million during the first six months of 2014 – a statistic his campaign claimed was indicative of “overwhelming grassroots support for Governor Walker’s campaign to continue moving Wisconsin forward.”

Walker is hardly alone among politicians who tout the number of contributions to their campaigns as evidence they are really popular with ordinary citizens. But a closer look at the numbers reveals little proof of “overwhelming grassroots support.”

The number of itemized contributions came from slightly more than 41,500 donors who represent only *seven-tenths of 1%* of the state's estimated 5.8 million residents.

Most of Walker contributions and donors were from outside Wisconsin. The governor received \$4.39 million or 56% of his contributions from nearly 22,000 donors outside the state who can't vote for him, and \$3.43 million or 44% from slightly more than 19,500 Wisconsin residents – about *three-tenths of 1%* of Wisconsin's 5.8 million residents. About \$9,700 worth of the governor's itemized donations listed no state or zip code.

Walker's campaign claimed 76% of the donations it received were for \$75 or less – another statistic meant to show grassroots support – but that's not where the governor raised most of his money.

A review of his individual contributions shows he received \$4.53 million in contributions of \$1,000 or more which represents 57% of his total individual contributions for the six-month period.

Walker's Democratic opponent, Mary Burke, has no grounds for making a claim of broad grassroots support either. Burke's campaign report for the first half of the year showed 50,518 itemized donations totaling \$3.29 million from slightly more than 35,500 donors who represent only sixth-tenths of 1% of the state's population.

Burke got \$1.11 million or 34% of her total individual contributions from slightly more than 17,600 out-of-state donors who can't vote for her, and \$2.18 million from slightly more than 17,900 Wisconsin residents – about three-tenths of 1% of state residents. Burke's take from donations of \$1,000 or more totals \$1.02 million or 31% of her individual contributions.

Hot off the presses

Inside this edition of the *Big Money Bulletin* is an order form for Democracy Campaign director Mike McCabe's book. To help raise funds to sustain our work, signed copies of the book are being offered to WDC members at a price that includes a tax-deductible charitable gift to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. Please use the special insert to



place your book order. A donor reply card also is enclosed should you wish to make a larger tax-deductible contribution to WDC.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Become a sustainer

One of the fastest growing sources of income for the Democracy Campaign has been automatic monthly or quarterly gifts from individual members who have signed up for our "Democracy Defenders" program.

To join this list of sustainers who provide us with a steady and reliable flow of income, all you have to do is call **608-255-4260** or email **wisdc@wisdc.org** to arrange to have automatic payments charged to your credit card.

Or you can sign up online by using the online donation form at **www.wisdc.org/donate**. On the form, choose a donation amount. Under "donation type" switch from the default option of "one-time donation" to "recurring donation." Then use the drop-down menu to designate whether you want to make your donation monthly or quarterly.

Coming attractions

If you live in the Madison area or are within traveling distance of the capital city, two upcoming events are sure to interest you.

The **28th Amendment National Roadshow** will be coming to Madison on Saturday, September 6. This leg of the traveling show devoted to highlighting the need to overturn the infamous 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* is being sponsored by the Democracy Campaign and will be held in Union South on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. The event will feature a lineup of excellent speakers including WDC director Mike McCabe and will culminate with a screening of the documentary film "Pay 2 Play." More information about the roadshow and the movie is available online at <http://28amend-movi.nationbuilder.com/madison>.

Mike McCabe also will be speaking to the **Madison Civics Club** on Saturday, September 13 at the Monona Terrace convention center along with Parker Palmer, the author of the acclaimed book *Healing the Heart of Democracy*. The convention center will be selling copies of Mike's book throughout the day. To make reservations for this event, see www.madisoncivicsclub.org/content/parker-j-palmer

Hope to see you at Bob Fest

After relocating for a couple of years to the Alliant Center in Madison, Fighting Bob Fest is headed back to Baraboo. The 13th annual festival commemorating the life and progressive vision of Wisconsin political legend "Fighting Bob"

La Follette will be held on Saturday, September 13 at the Sauk County Fairgrounds in Baraboo.

Democracy Campaign director Mike McCabe will again be a featured speaker and WDC will have an informational booth. Mike also will be signing copies of his

book, *Blue Jeans in High Places*, in the afternoon. Anyone willing to volunteer to help staff the informational table at Fighting Bob Fest should contact WDC outreach and advocacy director Beverly Speer by calling 608-255-4260 (or toll-free at 888-455-4260) or emailing Beverly at speer@wisdc.org.



WDC is hiring

Following up on the announcement in April that Mike McCabe is stepping aside as the Democracy Campaign's director at the end of the year, the search for Mike's successor formally began on August 4. Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter, resume and two professional references to the attention of WDC board president Brynne McBride, either by regular mail to 203 South Paterson Street, Suite 100, Madison WI 53703 or by email to bkneer@wisdc.org. Applications are being accepted through September 1.

Why local control is under siege

A Legislative Fiscal Bureau report in June identified 64 measures the legislature and the governor have approved since 2011 that force communities to pay

for state mandates or take away their authority to make decisions about public health, land use, transportation, the environment and other matters.

Governor Scott Walker and the Republican-led legislature decided local officials cannot properly handle issues ranging from mining and manure handling to billboard placement and employee sick days, and imposed state laws that seized local control — with the support of powerful special interests that contributed about \$47 million since 2010 to partisan candidates for statewide office and the legislature.

In addition to stripping local governments of their policymaking autonomy, more than half of the proposals that became law were barely aired in public. Thirty-six measures were tucked into two massive state budget bills in 2011 and 2013 that aren't meant to include non-spending policy items and thus the changes got little or no attention.



200 S Paterson St. Suite 100
Madison, WI 53703

608 255-4260
www.wisdc.org



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Get Mike McCabe's book and help WDC all at once

At a time full of pessimism, Democracy Campaign director Mike McCabe has written an unapologetically optimistic book, *Blue Jeans in High Places: The Coming Makeover of American Politics*. Mike predicts we are on the verge of an extensive renovation of the political landscape. His book describes when it has happened before and spells out how and where it will happen next, and who will do the renovating.

You need to read this book. And once you do, we just know you will want to do as much as you can to put it in the hands of friends, neighbors, co-workers and other acquaintances. As you do, you can help give the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign a boost at the same time. You can buy a copy of Mike's book, or better yet multiple copies, from WDC at a price that includes a tax deductible charitable gift to help us carry on the vitally important work that is cited throughout *Blue Jeans in High Places*. The book is priced at \$15.95. Under this special offer, you can get a signed copy plus the satisfaction of supporting a great cause.



If you already have ordered your own copy of the book, think about that certain someone (or many someones) who could benefit greatly from reading it. *Blue Jeans in High Places* makes an excellent gift, and an outstanding choice for your book club or neighborhood discussion group.

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